

through the dedication of its employees, UPS has reached the pinnacle of its industry and has set the standard by which its competitors must follow.

I am proud to say that since opening their first facility in Newark, NJ, in 1928, UPS has maintained a significant presence in my home State of New Jersey. It employs more than 18,000 people statewide, making it one of the 10 largest employers in our State. I recently had the privilege and opportunity to visit a UPS hub in Edison to help commemorate UPS's 100th anniversary. At the Edison facility, 3,000 dedicated employees process and sort packages originating from and destined for points all over our State. Individuals and businesses across New Jersey rely on their efforts every day, and the intricate and sophisticated processes used by these employees ensure that important packages and documents are delivered on time.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating UPS on 100 years in business. I personally extend my best wishes to the company and its employees in New Jersey and across the world for many more years of success and prosperity.●

TRIBUTE TO WALTER M. "WALLY" SCHIRRA

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I want to commend a great American, Astronaut Walter M. "Wally" Schirra, who passed away today. Captain Schirra leaves behind a praiseworthy legacy as a Navy veteran, a pioneer for NASA and of outer-space exploration, a television commentator, and a devoted husband and father.

Captain Schirra began his distinguished career in the U.S. Navy when he arrived in Annapolis in the early days of World War II; he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1945 and soon became a pilot through Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, FL. Through an exchange program with the Air Force during the Korean war, he proudly served our Nation as a pilot of F-86 Sabres.

He carried this dedicated service to America into the stratosphere and beyond, making history as one of the "Original Seven" astronauts named by NASA to the Mercury program. On October 3, 1962, Captain Schirra became the first person ever to orbit the Earth 6 times. He is unique in that he is the only astronaut to have flown in NASA's first 3 space programs: Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. After retiring from NASA, he later served with distinction as a widely known television commentator for CBS.

The passion that Wally Schirra had for space exploration and his accomplishments as a pioneer astronaut underscore the importance of our continuing to strengthen the NASA space program. The Apollo 7 mission—under the command of Schirra—proved to those at NASA that they had the ability to send a spacecraft into orbit

around the moon. Since then, NASA has taken many giant leaps. We must continue the exploration, research, and discovery that have all constituted NASA's trademark for decades.

Exploration into outer space helps us to better understand the world in which we live. NASA understood this well when they sent Captain Wally Schirra into outer space nearly 45 years ago; I am hopeful that this vision and reach will only continue to grow with time.

On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I thank Captain Schirra for his service to country and the science he helped to advance. He will be missed.●

HONORING MAINELY TRUSSES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize, for the week of April 29, an exceptional entrepreneur from my home State who has been awarded the Maine 2007 Small Business Person of the Year, Michael Boulet. Mike is truly one of our Nation's shining small business success stories. His company—Mainely Trusses—exemplifies the heart and soul of the American dream becoming reality.

Last March, I had the privilege to witness first hand the products and services that Mike's company provides when he was awarded an intermediary relending program loan from Kennebec Valley Council of Governments.

Mike's investment in his company through the Small Business Administrations' Maine Small Business Development Center and Costal Enterprises, Inc., has paid tremendous dividends for the future of Mainely Trusses—with a state-of-the-art facility, new technologies, a dedication to customer service, and full benefits for his employees. In fact, Mainely Trusses is so advanced that they use all laser beams to construct the trusses which is completely driven by computer software and highly skilled employees.

Since Mike has been president, Mainely Trusses has shown no signs of slowing down, growing from 3 to 50 employees over the last 15 years—a tremendous achievement for any business. Think about it—that is a 1,600-percent increase. Just imagine if we had that kind of explosive progress in the U.S. Congress, then we would really be onto something.

And what is all the more remarkable is Mike's courage to take on the family business after his father, John Boulet, passed away in a work-related accident. But Mike doesn't just reserve his considerable talents and energy for his business—he also exhibits those traits through his tireless leadership within the community whether serving as a member of the Maine Merchants Association Workers Compensation Trust Fund Board of Trustees, chairing the board for the Central Maine Youth Hockey Association, supporting Habitat for Humanity, or his involvement with Vietnamese orphanages and children's center.

The fact is small businesses are the critical element in our efforts to strengthen and bolster the Nation's economy. It used to be said, "What's good for General Motors is good for the Nation." Now, it is what is good for small business is best for the Nation and job growth.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am reminded daily of the immense—and often overlooked—contributions that risk-takers and dreamers like Mike and countless Americans make. They are the unsung heroes of our Nation's economy, creating two-thirds of all new jobs throughout our country.

That is why I appreciate SBA's commitment to providing our Nation's small businesses, as they have helped Mike, with the financial and business development tools to help them grow and excel. With more than 5.3 million jobs created or retained since 1999, this is proof-positive that our investment in the SBA is paying tremendous dividends to the Nation's economy.

We understand that Maine is a veritable "hotbed" for small business and a small business laboratory for the country. This year, at the vanguard of Maine entrepreneurs stands Mike Boulet. Once again, I would like congratulate Mike for being an exceptional model for Maine and the Nation. We here in the Senate wish Mike all the best for many more successful years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO VINCENZO ANTONIO MANNO

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I honor the musical genius of fellow Ohioan Vincenzo Antonio Manno, a renowned opera singer and devoted professor of music.

Mr. Manno was born and raised in my great hometown of Cleveland, OH. In fact, he grew up right down the street from my family in the Collinwood neighborhood—the same neighborhood I live in still today. But his musical gift eventually took him far beyond Collinwood to some of the finest music institutions in Europe.

Cleveland's rich cultural environment and outstanding music tradition prepared Mr. Manno for his world-renowned career. Before completing his studies at Oberlin College under the tutelage of Professor Richard Mill, Mr. Manno was trained at the Cleveland Music School Settlement under Burton Garlinghouse and John Shurtleff; at summer sessions in Chautauqua, NY, under Josephine Antoine; and at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Eleanor Steber.

After receiving his degree from Oberlin, Mr. Manno continued his studies on a Fulbright Fellowship in Italy at Santa Cecilia in Rome with Ettore Campogalliani. His private studies in Milan continued with Dr. Otto Mueller, who was affiliated for years with the Metropolitan Opera House of New York.